



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR MIKE LENARES**

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Helen Nelson Room – Town Hall**  
**131 Cedar Street**

**Tuesday, July 12, 2011**  
**7:00 p.m.**

## Minutes

---

### I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### II. ROLL CALL

#### Councilors Present:

Councilor Banach  
Councilor Bottalico  
Councilor Cohen  
Councilor McBride  
Councilor Nagel  
Councilor Nasinnyk  
Mayor Lenares

Councilor Klett – absent

#### Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager  
Ann Harter, Finance Director  
Donna Miller, Library Director  
Mary Richard, Council Clerk

Mayor Lenares asked for a moment of silence in memory of Newington Police Officer Richard Adamick who passed away on July 5, 2011.

**Councilor Nagel made a motion to move Item VII.A resignation of Councilor Meg Casasanta to Old Business A. Seconded by Councilor Banach. Vote 7 – 0 Councilor Klett absent.**

### III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (IN PERSON/VIA TELEPHONE)

Mady Kenney, Crestview Drive thanked the Council and Parks & Rec for the privilege of swimming from 1 to 2. Also the handicap ramp is really a hazard in that one of the railings is significantly movable and it needs to be addressed.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resignation of Meg Casasanta from the Town Council

#### **RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Meg Casasanta from the Newington Town Council as well as the Employee Insurance and Pension Benefits Committee**

**and the Education Facilities Project Building Committee effective July 1, 2011, in accordance with correspondence to the Town Clerk dated June 23, 2011.**

MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk  
VOTE: 7 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:**

**Town Council**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Replaces</b>
<b>Beth DelBuono</b>	<b>327 Walsh Ave. Newington</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>7/12/11-11/15/11</b>	<b>M. Casasanta</b>

MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk  
VOTE: 7 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

Beth DelBuono was sworn in as a Councilor for the Newington Town Council

B . August 23, 2011 Council meeting – Cancel

Councilor Cohen said that she was concerned about there being five weeks between meetings and if the public has concerns to address they would have no place to go. Councilor McBride asked Mr. Salomone if it became necessary, what would be the procedure to call a special meeting. Mr. Salomone said that he, as Town Manager could call for a special meeting and he would notify the Council. Councilor Nasinnyk said that she shares Councilor Cohen's concern and doesn't like to cancel meetings because it's not fair to the public. Councilor Banach said that if something arises a meeting could be arranged quickly.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby alters its meeting schedule by canceling its regular meeting scheduled for August 23, 2011.**

MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nagel  
VOTE: 7 yes - 1 no- Councilor Nasinnyk voted no - Councilor Klett absent

**V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken Only by Waiving the Rules.)**

**A. Section 401 Money Purchase Plan**

Ms. Ann Harter, Director of Finance introduced Mr. Russ Salerno, Retirement Plans Specialist at ICMARC. Mr. Salerno submitted a packet explaining the advantage of the 401a pension plan. He said that right now the Town is using the 457 for all contributions and it has a limit. So moving the Town's portion to a 401a plan would save fees for the Town or the employee. By switching to the 401a the employers contributions don't count toward the 457 dollar limits and allows the employees to save more. Mayor Lenares asked if we're still offering the 457 and Mr. Salerno said that we are offering both. Councilor Nasinnyk asked if there is a down side to this plan. Mr. Salerno said that the 457 plan does not have an age requirement. The 401a does have an age requirement, at least 55 when employment is

terminated otherwise there is a 10% penalty. Councilor DelBuono said that with this arrangement there are two fields to draw from. She said that the other up side to it is that the savings on the Town side, the Town's contribution can save on the FICA. She said that the money in the 457 will stay and the 401a will take over. Councilor Nagel said that the new 401a plan is not subject to FICA tax, and is that FICA tax paid by the Town in addition or does it roll over into the employee. He said in the long run it would save the Town money. Councilor McBride asked if an employee currently has a 401a and a 457 does his money begin to accrue in a 401a at a certain point. Mr. Salerno said we would take the existing employees, have them fill out the 401 form and going forward all contributions would go into the 401. Councilor Cohen asked is there was an estimate on what money would be saved by the Town. Ms. Harter said she doesn't have that information immediately available.

#### B. Administrative Group Employee Wage Increase

Mr. Salomone said that the budget for fiscal year 2011 and 2012 does contain a 2% increase for administrative group employees which is a contingency account and would be within our budget and mirrors the AFSCME agreement. Also the Police Department does receive a 2% increase effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, as you recall the Police Department took a 0% increase last year, the AFSCME and the administrative people took a zero increase two years ago. He said we have ample funds for this increase. This transfer would not be made until after January and we would not have to transfer the funds now. Mayor Lenares asked Ms. Harter how many administrative employees are involved. Ms. Harter said about 40 people. Mayor Lenares asked if there is a cap on what any employee can make. Mr. Salomone said there is a pay range and no employee can go over that range. Mayor Lenares asked Ms. Harter if we could have a list of who they are and what they're making. Councilor Nagel asked if any of this was discussed when going over the budget. Mr. Salomone said yes it had been discussed. Councilor Cohen said that the Council used to get a list of reclassification and every once in a while it would be looked at. Mr. Salomone said he could provide that to the Council. No vote was taken.

#### C. Library Overtime Costs

Mr. Salomone said that a Council person asked that this be on the Agenda and he reviewed the budget meeting and overtime was discussed. Present from the Ms. Donna Miller, Director, Mr. Eric Rothauser, Library Board President and several other board members.

Mr. Rothauser said that the first place to look is at the Union contract. What it indicates is that Sunday hours by definition are overtime. The Library has approximately 50 employees, 12 are full time union employees. Also under that contract it gives Union employees first crack and they have the choice to accept or refuse Sunday hours. The Director and Assistant director poll the employees to find out who would want Sunday hours and the remaining hours are given to non union employees. Mayor Lenares asked out of the 12 employees that are Union, how many work on Sunday at one time. Member Lisa said that they tell us how many they want and we can schedule according to that usually not more than two. She said that they have never gone over budget. Councilor Nasinnyk said she remembered having this discussion, and is it correct that the Library has to have a certified employee. Mr. Rothauser said that there isn't a requirement for a certain classification on the premises. Mr. Salomone pointed out that non union part timers are professional librarians who choose to work part time. Ms. Miller said that when the schedules are being prepared, it's important that each department has to schedule her department and to have the right combination of people in case of an emergency. Mr. Miller also mentioned that if the overtime seems like a large number it actually isn't, and this coming year for 25 Sundays, the difference of what we paid the overtime people that will be working is .002655% of our budget. Councilor Nagel said he appreciated the additional information tonight that had not been noted previously. Councilor Bottalico said that this was all explained at the Budget meeting and he understood it then and doesn't understand why it's on the agenda tonight. Another member of the Board noted that she is disappointed that the Councilor who requested this agenda item is not here tonight and asked if we can be sure that she gets this information. Mr. Salomone said that it will all be in the minutes and will also be on NCTV. Ms. Miller said that looking at last years Sundays, and last year we had 8,341 people come in on Sunday and almost 17,000 items were checked out. Councilor Nasinnyk complimented Director Miller on her work and Ms. Miller said that she couldn't have managed without her great staff. Councilor Cohen thanked the Library Board members for coming back again. Councilor DelBuono thanked the Library Board people for

coming in again and she said how much the Library is appreciated. Mr. Rothauser said that he appreciated what the Council does along with the Library and Friends and the Library.

VII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Jeff Hedberg from the Board of Parks and Recreation effective June 28, 2011, in accordance with correspondence to the Town Clerk dated June 28, 2011.**

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach  
SECONDED BY: Councilor McBride  
VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:**

**Board of Parks and Recreation**

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
James Marocchini	75 Michael Lane	D	IMMED-11/30/11	J. Hedberg

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Bottalico  
VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of David Lenares, Alternate on the Town Planning and Zoning Commission effective July 11, 2011, in accordance with correspondence to the Town Clerk dated July 11, 2011.**

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Bottalico  
VOTE: 7 yes – Mayor Lenares abstained – Councilor Klett absent

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Michael Casasanta from the Town Planning and Zoning Commission effective July 1, 2011, in accordance with correspondence to the Town Clerk dated June 30, 2011.**

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nagel  
VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:**

**Town Planning and Zoning Commission**

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
David Lenares	41 New Britain Avenue		IMMED-11/30/12	M. Casasanta

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach

SECONDED BY: Councilor Bottalico  
VOTE: 7 – 0 Mayor Lenares abstained - Councilor Klett absent

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Daniel Quattromani from the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate effective June 20, 2011, in accordance with correspondence to the Town Clerk dated June 20, 2011.**

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk  
VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:**

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Daniel Quattromani	8 Brentwood Road	D	IMMED-11-30-15	Alex Forte- de facto term exp 11/30/10
Alternate: Paul E. Plavcan	35 Crestview Drive	D	12/1/07-11/30/12	D. Quattromani- (term exp 11/30/12)

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk  
VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Susan Halpin from the Library Board effective April 2, 2011, in accordance with correspondence to the Town Clerk dated June 17, 2011.**

MOTION BY: Councilor Nagel  
SECONDED BY: Council Banach  
VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Klett absent

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:**

**Library Board**

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Susan Wright		R	IMMED-11/30/13	S. Halpin

MOTION BY: Councilor Nagel  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk  
VOTE: 8 – 0 , Councilor Klett absent

**VIII. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**A. June 28, 2011**

Page 4 Public Participation – should read Jerilyn Nagel

Page 8 – Line 6 – 2<sup>nd</sup> line should read..."NCTV on it's open house which was.."

Also same paragraph – should read ....Town Hall which has not been updated

Page 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph should read – Mr Pizella (spelling)  
Page 5 – should read...the percentages of State reimbursements

Councilor Cohen moved to accept as amended. Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Vote 8 – 0, Councilor Klett absent

IX. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

A. Town Manager Reports - none

X. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS - none

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (IN PERSON/VIA TELEPHONE)

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive asked if the minutes could be more condensed with so much input it tends to get confusing and also the recording system is antiquated and maybe should be updated.

XII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Bottalico noted the change orders approved regarding the artificial turf for this week. Councilor Cohen is still concerned about the big empty space between meetings because the public has no way to contact us and needs a place to voice their concerns.

Councilor Nasinnyk congratulated our IT person, Paul Boutot, and that there are very few people who have this training. Mr. Salomone said that it's a certification as a Governmental Public Information Officer. Councilor Nasinnyk congratulated Paul on that accomplishment and she also wanted to welcome Beth DelBuono to the Council and looks forward to working with her.

Councilor Banach said regarding the five weeks with no meetings, he said that certainly if anyone has any concerns we can address it very quickly by calling any one of the Councilors.

Councilor Nagel welcomed Ms. DelBuono to the Council. Councilor DelBuono said that she appreciates the effort of the Council to make this an easy transition and she thanked her family for their support.

Councilor McBride wanted to assure the public that the Councilors are very much available if there are any concerns during the break in meetings. Also he welcomed Councilor DelBuono to the Council and looks forward to working with her.

Mayor Lenares thanked Councilor DelBuono for joining the Council and she should feel free at any time to ask any questions. Also, he mentioned that the artificial turf project is moving ahead and also the Extravaganza is this week, Thursday night and Friday with bands and a craft fair with a hot dog eating contest, but he will be judging, not participating.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - postponed

XIV. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Lenares moved to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Vote 8 - 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Richard  
Council Clerk